

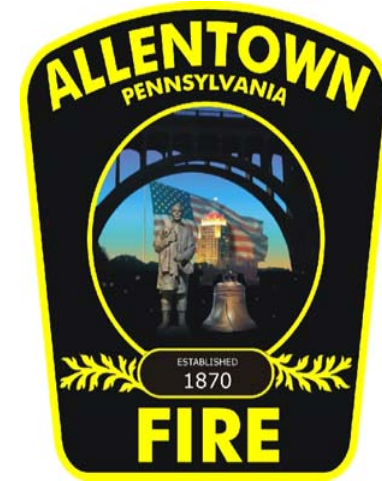
## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Fire Administration	610-437-7765
Fire Marshal	610-437-7788
Fire Captain-Public Affairs	610-437-7787
Building Codes	610-437-7592
Animal Control	610-437-7751
UGI	610-866-0951
PPL	610-774-4303
American Red Cross	610-866-6660
RCN	1-800-746-4726
Service Electric	610-865-9100



Ed Pawlowski, Mayor

Robert C. Scheirer, Fire Chief/EMC  
Robert D. Kudlak, Jr., Deputy Fire Chief  
[www.allentownpa.gov](http://www.allentownpa.gov)



## ***AFTER THE FIRE***

**ONCE THE  
FIREFIGHTERS HAVE  
GONE...**

**WHAT TO DO NEXT**

**AN INFORMATIONAL  
GUIDE**

**PROVIDED TO YOU BY  
THE ALLENTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **UNDERSTANDING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S ROLL**

The Allentown Fire Department has responded under emergency conditions to control and extinguish your fire. In some cases forced entry, causing some damage, may have been required to quickly attack the fire. Even small fires often produce large volumes of heat and smoke making it difficult for the firefighters to locate the fire in your building. Releasing this heat and smoke is called ventilation and sometimes requires damage to windows and even requires the opening of a hole in the roof to get smoke and heat to rise out of the building. Breaking window glass, while appearing to be destructive, often causes little if any additional damage and allows for quicker extinguishment preventing greater fire damage.

Firefighters overhaul your building to make sure the fire is out. In this process ceilings, floors and walls sometimes have to be opened to assure the fire is out in these concealed spaces. A fire not properly overhauled often reignites causing more damage than firefighters would have by opening walls and floors to check extension.

## **GET YOUR FAMILY SETTLED**

If your home is uninhabitable, as a result of the fire and you cannot find a place to stay with family or friends, (keeping in mind it may be days or weeks until you are able to move back into your home) there are agencies to go to for help. You may contact the **American Red Cross (610) 866-6660** for assistance with shelter, food, clothing and emotional counseling.

## **CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY**

Notify your insurance company as soon as possible so they can send an adjuster to assess your needs and the damages to your property. Be sure to speak with them on issues of housing if necessary and securing your property. You may need to complete a damage inventory. Allow time for your adjuster to take photos of all damages prior to cleaning or throwing anything away. Be prepared to itemize your possessions from room to room.

## **DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS**

Copies of birth certificates, death and marriage records can be obtained from the District Court Clerk in the county of birth, death or marriage. Driver License can be obtained through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation or state where issued.

## **CASH AND VALUABLES**

Remove cash and jewelry from the premises as soon as possible. If paper money is burned, handle with care, placing it in a plastic bag and take it to your local bank regarding replacement. Mutilated or melted coins are exchangeable at the nearest Federal Reserve Bank (Philadelphia).

## **PERISHABLES**

Dispose of food, beverages or medications exposed to heat and smoke. If in doubt regarding medications, please consult with your local health representative.